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## Amendment

Serial No. 09/996,221

at least one sensor for determining a lateral position of [a package] trayed food products moving along the first conveyor, the sensor comprising an optical sensor arrangement positioned to avoid direct contact with trays food items;

at least one actuator for controlling a relative lateral position of the output end of the first conveyor to the input end of the second conveyor;

a controller for receiving signals from the sensor and for controlling the actuator, wherein, for a given [package] trayed food product moving along the first conveyor, and based upon signals received from the sensor, the controller effects movement of the actuator to define a relative lateral position between the output end of the first conveyor and the input end of the second conveyor to place the given [package] trayed food product in a desired lateral position on the second conveyor.

2 (Original). The machine of claim 1 wherein the actuator is associated with at least the output end of the first conveyor.

3 (Original). The machine of claim 1 wherein the actuator is associated with at least the input end of the second conveyor.

4 (Currently Amended). The machine of claim 1 wherein the sensor comprises [and] an array of optical sensors.

5 (Currently Amended). The machine of claim 4 wherein the array of optical sensors is comprised of an array of optical sensors extending laterally relative to a conveying direction of the first conveyor and directing light vertically through spaced apart belts of the first conveyor.

6. (Canceled).

7 (Original). The machine of claim 1 wherein the desired lateral position is a centered lateral position on the second conveyor.

8 (Currently Amended). The machine of claim 7 wherein positioning of the given [package] trayed food product at the centered lateral position on the second conveyor results in centering of the given [package] trayed food product relative to a film dispensing axis when conveyed to the wrap station.

9 (Original). The machine of claim 1 wherein the film dispensing station is above the wrap station.

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10 (Original). The machine of claim 1 wherein a section of the wrap station is vertically movable.

11 (Original). The machine of claim 1 wherein the actuator is associated with both an input end and the output end of the first conveyor.

12 (Currently Amended). A [package] trayed food product wrapping machine for wrapping packages, comprising:

a wrap station at which [packages] trayed food products are wrapped;

a film dispensing station for drawing out film over [a package] trayed food products at the wrap station;

a conveying system for moving [packages] trayed food products along a path to the wrap station, the conveying system being selectively adjustable for varying a lateral position of [a package] trayed food products traveling along the path, the conveying system including a first conveyor along a first portion of the defined path, a second conveyor along a second portion of the defined path, the first conveyor having an output end which is aligned at a height with and feeds to an input end of the second conveyor for feeding trayed food products traveling along the first conveyor to the second conveyor;

at least one sensor for determining lateral position of [packages] trayed food products;

a controller for receiving signals from the sensor and for controlling adjustment of the conveying system, wherein, for a given [package] trayed food product moving along the path, and based upon signals received from the sensor, the controller effects adjustment of the conveying system to define a relative lateral position between the output end of the first conveyor and the input end of the second conveyor so as to establish a desired lateral position of the given [package] trayed food product when the given trayed food product [package] reaches the wrap station.

13 (Currently). The machine of claim 12 wherein the conveying system [comprises first and second conveyors and] includes at least one actuator [configured to vary a relative lateral position between] connected with one of the first and second conveyors.

14 (Canceled).

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15 (Canceled).

16 (Canceled).

17 (Canceled).

18 (Currently Amended). A package wrapping machine, comprising:

an infeed station;

a wrap station;

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β a conveying system configured to move the packages along a path from the infeed station to the wrap station, [at least a portion of the conveying system being selectively adjustable laterally to controllably vary a lateral position of at least certain of the packages traveling along the path] the conveying system including a first conveyor having an output end to feed packages to an input end of a second conveyor, the first conveyor including an actuator connected for moving the output end of the first conveyor along a laterally extending axis while an input end of the first conveyor remains laterally stationary and while the input end of the second conveyor remains laterally stationary;

a sensor configured to detect a lateral position of packages; and

a controller configured to receive signals from the sensor and to control the actuator to provide selective lateral adjustment of the [conveying system to position at least certain of the packages] output end of the first conveyor so as to define a relative lateral position between the output end of the first conveyor and the input end of the second conveyor to place at least certain packages in a desired position when they reach the wrap station.

19 (Currently Amended). The machine of claim 18 wherein [the conveying system comprises at least two conveyors and] the desired position is established by centering the package on [one of] the second conveyor[s].

20 (Canceled).

21 (Currently Amended). The machine of claim [18] 13 wherein the actuator is connected to move the output end of the first conveyor and the first conveyor [conveying system] comprises a [conveyor having] a first section, [a second] an intermediate section pivotally coupled to the first section, and [a third] an end section pivotally coupled to the [second] intermediate section.

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22 (Canceled).

23 (Currently Amended). [The machine of claim 18] A package wrapping machine, comprising:

an infeed station;

a wrap station;

a conveying system configured to move the packages along a path from the infeed station to the wrap station, at least a portion of the conveying system being selectively adjustable laterally to controllably vary a lateral position of at least certain of the packages traveling along the path;

a sensor configured to detect a lateral position of packages; and

a controller configured to receive signals from the sensor and to control selective lateral adjustment of the conveying system to position at least certain of the packages in a desired position when they reach the wrap station;

wherein the conveying system comprises an elevator that is laterally adjustable relative to a substantially horizontal conveyor, the elevator separate from and positioned adjacent the output end of the substantially horizontal conveyor and moving packages from the output end upward to the wrap station.

24 (Canceled).

25 (Currently Amended). A package wrapping machine, comprising:

a wrap station;

a conveying system configured to move the packages along a path to the wrap station, [at least a portion of the conveying system being selectively adjustable laterally to controllably vary a lateral position of at least certain of the packages traveling along the path] the conveying system including a conveyor and an actuator connected for moving one end of the conveyor along a laterally extending axis while an opposite end of the conveyor remains laterally stationary;

at least one sensor configured to detect a lateral position of packages; and

a controller configured to receive signals from the sensor and to control the actuator to provide selective lateral adjustment of the conveying system to position at least certain of the packages in a suitable lateral position for wrapping at the wrap station.

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b 26 (Original). The machine of claim 25 wherein the conveying system comprises at least two conveyors and the suitable lateral position is established by centering the package on one of the conveyors.

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27 (New). The machine of claim 1 wherein the actuator is connected for moving the output end of the first conveyor along a laterally extending axis while an input end of the first conveyor remains laterally stationary.

✓ 28. (New). The machine of claim 1 wherein the actuator is connected for moving the input end of the second conveyor along a laterally extending axis while an output end of the second conveyor remains laterally stationary.

29 (New). The machine of claim 12 wherein the conveying system includes an actuator that is connected for moving the output end of the first conveyor along a laterally extending axis while an input end of the first conveyor remains laterally stationary.

30. (New). The machine of claim 12 wherein the conveying system includes an actuator that is connected for moving the input end of the second conveyor along a laterally extending axis while an output end of the second conveyor remains laterally stationary.

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